

Mahir Şaul

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RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

African immigration and transnational studies; West African historical anthropology; economic anthropology; anticolonial movements; intrahousehold processes; rural, urban and transborder trade; ecological history; Islam; African cinema; Sephardic culture and history. Areal focus: Burkina Faso, West Africa, Turkey.

POSITION

Professor, University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign): Department of Anthropology; Department of Media and Cinema Studies; Curator, The Spurlock Museum

Past positions: Erasmus Mundus, TPTI Masters Program, Universities of Evora and Paris 1-Sorbonne (Visiting Scholar, 2010); Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Sociale, Collège de France and Ecole de Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (*Associé de Recherche*, 2004); Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle, Germany (Visiting Fellow, 2004); Institute für Ethnologie, Freie Universität, Berlin, Germany (DAAD Visiting Professor, 1999 Fall); Laboratoire ERMES, Orléans, France (Chargé de Recherche, 1996-1997); Yale University (Visiting Associate Professor, 1991-1992); Center for African Studies, University of Illinois (Acting Director, 1988 and 1989).

Affiliated with: The European Union Center, The Center for African Studies, Center for South Asia and Middle Eastern Studies, Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Program, Human Dimensions of Environmental Systems, Russian, East European and Eurasian Center, Illinois Program for Jewish Society and Culture

AWARDS

2012 Listed by *Utne Reader* magazine as one of "Twelve people and organizations changing your world"

2004 Distinguished Africanist Award, Association for Africanist Anthropology, section of American Anthropological Association.

2002 Amaury Talbot Prize of the Royal Anthropological Institute (for West African Challenge to Empire, coauthored with Dr. Patrick Royer)

1982 Esther L. Kinsley Outstanding Dissertation Award

DEGREES

Ph.D. Indiana University, 1982

B.A. Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, 1975

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2012 Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) International Short visit Grant (Decision IZKOZ1_143983) for collaborative work with the University of Zurich, Ethnologisches Seminar; 2010 The Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research; 2010 Erasmus Mundus Fellowship. Master TPTI Program (Techniques, Patrimoine, Territoires de l'industrie). Consortium of Université Paris 1, Sorbonne (France), Universidade de Evora (Portugal), Università di Padova (Italy); 2004 National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship Award; 1992-1998 John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Joint Research Grant "The African Environment: Experience and Control"; 1994 Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Fellowship; 1988-1990 National Science Foundation BNS 88-15676; 1988 William and Flora Hewlett Foundation International Research Grant; 1988 The Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research; 1983-1984 National Science Foundation BNS 83-05394; 1983-1984 The Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research #4392.

Several University of Illinois Research Board Grants, most recently in 2010 for fieldwork on African immigrants in Istanbul.

UNIVERSITY FELLOWSHIPS

2005 Associate, Center for Advanced Study; 1993 Fellow, Program for the Study of Cultural Values and Ethics; 1986 Fellow, Center for Advanced Study

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Books

2001 *West African Challenge to Empire: Culture and History in the Volta-Bani Anticolonial War* (with Patrick Royer), 404 pp. Ohio University Press, Athens, and James Currey, Oxford.

- Amaury Talbot Prize, The Royal Anthropological Institute
- Outstanding Academic Title, *Choice*

2010 *Viewing African Cinema in the Twenty-First Century: Art Films and the Nollywood Video Revolution* (edited with Ralph A. Austen). Athens, OH: Ohio University Press.

Book chapters and articles

2012 Africa South of the Sahara, Chapter 30 in *A Handbook of Economic Anthropology, Second Edition*, ed. by James G. Carrier, pp. 512-528. London: Edward Elgar. (revised from 2005)

2012 Le roi et la multiplication des pouvoirs. In *La terre et le pouvoir. À la mémoire de Michel Izard*, ed. by Dominique Casajus and Fabio Viti, pp. 163-179. Paris : Éditions Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique.

2012 Gaston Kaboré. in *Dictionary of African Biography*, ed. by Henry Louis Gates and Emmanuel K. Akyeampong. Oxford University Press.
<http://www.oxfordafricanbiography.com/entry?entry=t338.e0987>

2012 Idrissa Ouédraogo. in *Dictionary of African Biography*, ed. by Henry Louis Gates and Emmanuel K. Akyeampong. Oxford University Press.
<http://www.oxfordafricanbiography.com/entry?entry=t338.e1646>

2011 Istanbul Judeo-Spanish (with José Ignacio Hualde). *Journal of the International Phonetic Association* 41, no. 1, pp. 89-110. http://journals.cambridge.org/repo_A82p8x2D

2010 Les mages magnats de l'après-ajustement structurel. In *Révoltes et oppositions dans un régime semi-autoritaire. Le cas du Burkina Faso*, ed. by Mathieu Hilgers and Jacinthe Mazzocchetti, pp. 107-116. Paris: Karthala.

2010 Art, Commerce and Politics in Francophone African Cinema. In *Viewing African Cinema in the Twenty-first Century: Art Films and the Nollywood Video Revolution*. Ed. By M. Şaul and R. Austen, pp. 133-159. Athens, OH: Ohio University Press.

2010 İlhan Başgöz'ün Halk Edebiyatı Araştırmalarına Katkısı." *Milli Folklor: Üç Aylık Uluslararası Kültür Araştırmaları Dergisi* 22, no. 85, pp. 19-

2009 Koranic Schools and Child Labor in West Africa. In *The World of Child Labor: An Historical and Regional Survey*. Edited by Hugh D. Hindman, pp. 199-201. Armonk, N.Y.: ME Sharpe.
<http://books.google.com/books?id=lrKec5YTVYAC&lpg=PA199&ots=z0mx2VrC8Z&dq=mahir%20saul&pg=PA199#v=onepage&q=mahir%20saul&f=false>

2007 Méthodes en histoire orale. Genèse de l'autorité politique *moogo*. *L'Homme*. no.182, pp. 215-232.

2006 Islam and West African Anthropology. *Africa Today*, vol. 53, no. 1, pp. 2-33.

- 2006 Le *fanga* comme savoir et destinée: Signification sociale de la réussite personnelle au Soudan occidental. *L'Homme* no. 179, pp. 63-90.
- 2006 History as Cultural Redemption in Gaston Kaboré's Precolonial-era Films. In *Black and White in Colour: African History on Screen*. Edited by Vivian Bickford-Smith and Richard Mendelsohn, pp. 11-27, 324-326. Cape Town: Double Storey Books; Athens, OH: Ohio University Press.
- 2006 Burkina Faso, in *Worldmark Encyclopedia of Religious Practices*, ed. by Thomas Riggs, volume 2, pp. 155-163. Thomas Riggs Publishers.
- 2005 Claude Meillassoux (1925-2005). *American Anthropologist*, vol. 107, no. 4, pp. 753-57.
- 2005 Women Cross-border Traders in West Africa (with Gayle A. Morris). In *Women in African Development: The Challenge of Globalization and Liberalization in the 21st Century*, ed. by Sylvain H. Boko, Mina Balamoune-Lutz, and Sitawa R. Kimuna, pp. 53-82. Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press.
- 2005 The Circulation of Coins and the Roman Periphery. *Archaeological Dialogues*, vol. 12, no. 1, pp. 31-34.
- 2005 Africa South of the Sahara, Chapter 31 in *A Handbook of Economic Anthropology*, ed. by James G Carrier, pp. 500-514. London: Edward Elgar.
- 2004 Money in Colonial Transition: Cowries and Francs in West Africa. *American Anthropologist*, vol. 106, no. 1, pp. 71-84.
- 2004 The Dominance of the Cowry Relative to the Franc in West Africa, in *Values and Valuables: From the Sacred to the Symbolic*, edited by Cynthia Werner and Duran Bell, pp. 101-127. Society for Economic Anthropology Monograph Series, Volume 21. Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press.
- 2003 The Wild Vegetation Cover of Western Burkina Faso: Colonial Policy and Post-Colonial Development. (with Jean-Marie Ouadba and Ouétian Bongnounou) in *African Savannas: Global Narratives and Local Knowledge of Environmental Change*, edited by Thomas Bassett and Donald Crummey, pp. 121-160. Oxford and Portsmouth, N.H.: James Currey and Heinemann.
- 2001 The Mother Tongue of the Polyglot: Cosmopolitanism and Nationalism among the Sepharadim of Istanbul. In *Turkish-Jewish Encounters: Studies on Turkish-Jewish Relations through the Ages*. Edited by Mehmet Tütüncü. Haarlem: Stichting SOTA, pp. 129-166. [revised from Saul 1983]
- 1999 [2001] Les maisons de guerre des Watara du Mouhoun précolonial. *Burkina Faso: Cent Ans d'Histoire, 1895-1995*. Edited by Georges Madiéga. Paris: Karthala, and DPU of the University of Ouagadougou, pp. 381-417.
- 1998 The War Houses of the Watara in West Africa. *International Journal of African Historical Studies*, vol. 31, no. 3, pp. 537-570.
- 1997 The Meanings of Environmental Terms (with Donald Johnson, S. H. Ambrose, T. J. Bassett, M. L. Bowen, D. E. Crummey, J. S. Isaacson, P. Lamb, and A. E. Winter). *Journal of Environmental Quality*, vol. 26, no. 3, pp. 581-589.
- 1997 Islam et appropriation mimétique comme ressource historique de la religion bobo. *Journal des Africanistes*, vol. 67, no. 2, pp. 7-24.
- 1997 The Fragile Victory of French Ecologists (with Jean-Paul Deléage). *Environmental Politics*, vol. 6, no. 4, pp. 152-57.

- 1997 Military Alliance, Personal Submission, and Oaths in Precolonial Sudan. *Working Papers on African Societies*, Göthe Universität, Institut für Historische Ethnologie
- 1995 Economic Life in African Villages and Towns. In *Africa*, Third Edition. Edited by Phyllis M. Martin and Patrick O'Meara. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, pp. 190-210.
- 1993 Land Custom in Bare: Agnatic Corporation and Rural Capitalism in Western Burkina. In *Land in African Agrarian Systems*. Ed. by Thomas Bassett and Donald Crummey. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, pp. 75-100.
- 1992 Matrilineal Inheritance and Post-colonial Prosperity in Southern Bobo Country. *Man: The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, vol. 27, no. 2, pp. 341-362.
- 1991 The Bobo 'House' and the Uses of Categories of Descent. *Africa* (London: International African Institute), vol. 61, no. 1, pp. 71-97.
- 1989 Corporate Authority, Exchange, and Personal Opposition in Bobo Marriages. *American Ethnologist*, vol. 16, no. 1, pp. 58-76. 1991 Farm Production in Bare, Burkina Faso: The Technical and Cultural Framework of Diversity. In *Savoirs Paysans et Développement*. Ed. by Georges Dupré. Paris: Editions Karthala and ORSTOM, pp. 301-329.
- 1989 Separateness and Relation: Autonomous Income and Negotiation among Rural Bobo Women. In *The Household Economy: Reconsidering the Domestic Mode of Production*, pp. 171-193. Edited by Richard Wilk. Boulder, Co.: Westview Press.
- 1989 Expenditure and Intrahousehold Patterns Among the Bobo of Burkina Faso. In *The Social Economy of Consumption*, pp. 349-378. Edited by Henry Rutz and Benjamin S. Orlove. Society for Economic Anthropology Monograph Series, Volume. 6. Lanham: University Press of America.
- 1988 Money and Land Tenure as Factors in Farm Size Differentiation in Burkina Faso. In *Land and Society in Contemporary Africa*, pp. 243-279. Edited by R. E. Downs and S. P. Reyna. Hanover and London: University Press of New England.
- 1987 The Organization of a West African Grain Market. *American Anthropologist* vol. 89, no. 1, pp. 74-95.
- 1986 Development of the Grain Market and Merchants in Burkina Faso. *Journal of Modern African Studies*, vol. 24, no. 1, pp. 127-153.
- 1984 The Quranic School Farm and Child Labour in Upper Volta. *Africa* (London: International African Institute), vol. 54, no. 2, pp. 71-87.
- 1983 The Mother Tongue of the Polyglot: Cosmopolitanism and Nationalism among the Sepharadim of Istanbul. *Anthropological Linguistics*, vol. 25, no. 3, pp. 326-358.
- 1983 Work Parties, Wages and Accumulation in a Voltaic Village. *American Ethnologist* vol. 10, no. 1, pp. 77-96.
- 1981 Beer, Sorghum and Women: Production for the Market in Rural Upper Volta. *Africa* (London: International African Institute), vol. 51, no. 3, pp. 746-776. 1991 Farm Production in Bare, Burkina Faso: The Technical and Cultural Framework of Diversity. In *Savoirs Paysans et Développement*. Ed. by Georges Dupré. Paris: Editions Karthala and ORSTOM, pp. 301-329.
- in press Les foyers Zara de Sia et de Tunuma à la fin du dix-neuvième siècle. In *Urbanité et appartenances en Afrique de l'ouest : La ville de Bobo-Dioulasso au Burkina Faso*, ed. by Katja Werthmann and Mamadou Lamine Sanogo. Paris, Karthala.
- in press Paul Bohannan. In *Theory in Social and Cultural Anthropology: An Encyclopedia*.

Edited by Richard L. Warms and Jon McGee. Sage Publications.

in press Claude Meillassoux. In *Theory in Social and Cultural Anthropology: An Encyclopedia*. Edited by Richard L. Warms and Jon McGee. Sage Publications.

RECENT LECTURES

- 2012 "African Immigrants in Istanbul: South-South Work Migration and a Critique of Eurocentric and Refugee Perspectives," Hanyang University, ERICA Campus, Department of Cultural Anthropology and Institute of Globalization and Multicultural Studies, Ansan, South Korea, November 20, 3:30-5:00 pm.
- 2012 "Le cinéma africain au 21^e siècle: Au seuil d'une double bifurcation?" Université Libre de Bruxelles, Laboratoire d'Anthropologie des Mondes Contemporains (LAMC), October 19, 6-8.
- 2011 "Economic Anthropology and Development Economics," Marmara University, Department of Economics, Istanbul, Turkey, December 27, 2011.
- 2011 "African Immigrants in Istanbul," Kadir Has University, Istanbul, Center for Middle East and African Studies, April 4.
- 2011 "African Immigrants as Entrepreneurs," Yeditepe University, Istanbul, Department of Anthropology, March 29.
- 2011 "Socio-cultural Evaluation of the African Immigrant Community of Istanbul," Bahçeşehir University, Istanbul, Department of Sociology Seminars, March 23.
2010. "Historical Cultural Contact Between the Ottoman Mediterranean and the Interior of West Africa," Sabanci University, Istanbul, October 12.
- 2010 "African Cinema from Post-Independence to the Current Era," University of Zurich, Seminar colloquium, Völkerkunde Museum, December 6.
- 2010 "The Technology Factor in the Development of African Cinema," in Program "Patrimonio Científico, Técnico e Industrial," Politècnica de Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain, September 14.
- 2010 "The Zara Houses of Sia and Tunuma," Colloque international: *Bobo-Dioulasso dans son contexte regional*, Centre Point Sud (Point Sud Center, Bamako, Mali, 4-7 mars 2010)